



STATE OF MINNESOTA

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

**In the Matter of Minnkota Power Cooperative
Application for a Route Permit for the
MINNKOTA LUND 230 kV HVTL project.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCOPING DECISION
EQB Docket No. 05-93-TR-Minnkota Lund
230 kV High Voltage Transmission Line**

The above-entitled matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to be prepared on the proposed Minnkota Lund 230 kV HVTL project.

The EQB held a public meeting on April 26, 2005, in Baudette, Minnesota to discuss the project with the public and to solicit input into the scope of the EA to be prepared. The public was given until May 9, 2005 to submit written comments regarding the scope of the EA.

Having consulted with the EQB staff, I hereby make the following Scoping Order.

MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED

The EA on the Minnkota Lund 230 kV HVTL project will address the following matters:

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
 - 1.1 Project Description
 - 1.2 Project Location
 - 1.3 Project Proposal
 - 2.3 Sources of Information
- 2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
 - 2.1 EQB Permit Requirement
 - 2.2 Environmental Assessment Requirement
 - 2.3 Scoping of Environmental Impacts and Alternative Routes
- 3.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION
 - 3.1 Description of Environmental Setting
 - 3.2 Impacts on Human Settlement
 - 3.2.1 Socioeconomic
 - 3.2.2 Displacement
 - 3.2.3 Noise
 - 3.2.4 Aesthetics
 - 3.2.5 Human Health and Safety



- 3.3 Impacts on Land-based Economics
 - 3.3.1 Recreation
 - 3.3.2 Prime Farmland
 - 3.3.3 Transportation
 - 3.3.4 Mining and Forestry
 - 3.3.5 Archeological and Historic Resources
- 3.4 Natural Environment
 - 3.4.1 Air Quality
 - 3.4.2. Water Quality, Soils and Geology
 - 3.4.3 Groundwater and Wetlands
 - 3.4.4 Fish and Wildlife Resources
 - 3.4.5 Vegetation
- 3.5 Rare and Unique Natural Resources

4.0 REGULATORY PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

ISSUES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE EA

The EQB will not, as part of this environmental review, consider the following matter:

1. Whether a different size or different type of transmission line should be built.
2. The no-build option.
3. Any alternative routes for the proposed high voltage transmission line.
4. Any alternative sites for the Lund substation

IDENTIFICATION OF PERMITS

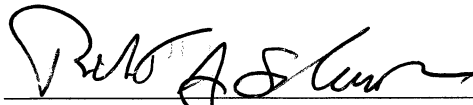
The EA will include a list of permits that will be required for the applicant to construct this project.

SCHEDULE

The EA will be completed by May 16, 2005.

Signed this 16 day of May, 2005

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Robert A. Schroeder, Chair